

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, Eleven years ago, Gene Knowles left his longtime home in California to take a position with the state of South Dakota, thus escaping the boring weather he'd known for far too long and experiencing the joy of the gentle breezes and refreshing seasonal changes of this state; and,

Whereas, Gene, in his first winter in South Dakota, felt compelled to see if his fellow employees' warnings not to travel in a South Dakota blizzard were valid, being reunited with his beloved pickup again only when the snow stopped; and,

Whereas, While traveling on state business, Gene's insistence on pouring Tabasco sauce on everything, thus changing the eating habits for all our citizens due to the resultant mass exodus of good chefs, hens refusing to lay eggs and long-term loss of appetite by his traveling companions; and,

Whereas, The medicinal values of Gene's special holiday chilies and salsas known throughout BIT can not be underrated, particularly since both provided fellow employees a quick means to drain their sinuses and a cleansing river of fire from teeth to stomach; and,

Whereas, Gene's years with the state taught him that following the adage of "Speak softly and carry a big stick" means if you speak softly in government, the stick you carry better be one of antacids; and,

Whereas, Gene, while managing RDTN, put the images of thousands of people on TV sets across the state thus reducing travel while bringing state-of-the-art to long distance face-to-face quibbling; and,

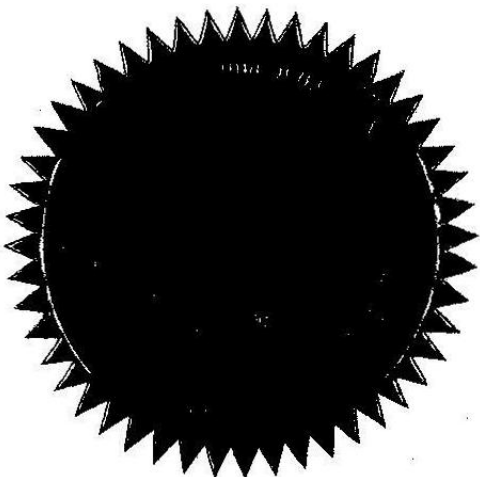
Whereas, Gene Knowles brought to the state of South Dakota not only his experience and knowledge but also his exemplary ethics, work habits, willingness to work with the situation, organization, management and budget skills, a sense of responsibility and methods of researching and instituting new technologies that have benefited government and citizens; and,

Whereas, Gene, has decided to move on to the next stage in his life with retirement but will be appreciated long after his retirement date for, among other things, steering RDTN from the early days to full functionality, for his work with the state's telephone systems, for working with and managing Telecommunications Engineering, for his calm demeanor, and for the respect and esteem he earned throughout the state. Gene will be missed:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim January 17, 2003, as

Gene Knowles Day

in South Dakota, and I want to wish Gene and his beloved wife, Glenda, a long and wonderful retirement.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this 8th Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State